

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1-6 and 8-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,752 to Gupta et al. ("Gupta"). Further, Office action rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,476,833 to Moshfeghi et al. ("Moshfeghi"). Applicants point out that claim 19 was not pending because claim 19 was cancelled in an Office action response dated November 19, 2002. Regarding the rejection of pending claims 1-18 and 20-29, applicants respectfully disagree.

By present amendment, claim 1 has been amended for clarification and not in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on February 4, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Prior to discussing reasons why applicants believe that the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present invention is presented.

The present invention is generally directed to a system and method for establishing a special communication relationship between a generally-accessible

web site (residing on a web server computer) and an application program which accesses the web site through a hosted web browser (wherein both the application program and the browser reside on a client computer). The special communication relationship allows the web server computer provide enhanced operating functionality to the client computer, such as providing state synchronization. As such, instead of navigating directly to the web site like other clients that are not running the application program, the client application program intentionally instructs the browser to go to a special, hidden web site that essentially only that client application program knows about. The hidden web site sets a special cookie on the client machine and redirects the client browser to the generally-accessible web site. At the web site, the server gets the client's special cookie from the client browser, and thereby knows that this client is actually running the application program, and that the browser is being hosted by it. With this knowledge, the server treats the client differently from other clients that are not running the application program. For example, because the server knows the application program is present at the client, the server may synchronize the application program's local data with data maintained at the server. Note that the above description is for informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

Turning to the claims, independent claim 1 recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising at a browser hosted by a client application program, receiving a request from the client application program to access a hidden web page hosted by a server, the request providing

information including a network location of that hidden page, accessing the hidden web page in response to the request from the client application program, receiving information from the hidden web page, writing the information to a client storage, providing the server with data corresponding to the information received from the hidden web page written into the client storage, the data indicating to the server that the browser is being hosted by the client application, and receiving state information directed to the client application from the server based on the data having been provided to the server.

The Office action rejected claim 1 as being unpatentable over Gupta. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches at a browser hosted by a client application program, receiving a request from a client application program to access an application server (although a hidden web page is recited in claim 1), the request providing information including a network location of the application server (again, the hidden web page is recited in claim 1). Figs. 1-4 and column 11, lines 35-50 of Gupta are referenced. This interpretation of Gupta is wrong. Gupta teaches two server computers, an application server and a login server. As such, any first request that originates from the client application must first be directed to the login server. Once authenticated, the client application may then communicate with the application server. Thus, the application server as used in Gupta is not a hidden web page as recited in claim 1. At best, the login server computer (which is an entirely different server computer) may be construed to be receiving a request from the application program, but it is not a hidden web page. Rather, it is simply another destination

for communication packets that may originate from the client computer. As such, this first element is not taught in the same manner as recited in claim 1.

Second, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches accessing the application server page (hidden web page) in response to the request from the application program. Columns 11 and 12 of Gupta are referenced. More specifically, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches this limitation by disclosing that a client is redirected from the application server if not authenticated by using URL redirection and forwarding a cookie identifier to store at the client for forwarding to a login server. This reasoning is flawed.

In looking at the first two limitations in conjunction with each other, the recitations of claim 1 are directed to receiving a request to access a hidden web page, and in response to the request, accessing the hidden web page. Stated more simply, this is essentially requesting access to A and then accessing A. Gupta, in contrast, teaches receiving a request to access an application server and, in response to the request, accessing a login server. Again simply stated, Gupta teaches *requesting access to A and then accessing B*. As such, once again, these first two elements are not taught by Gupta in the same manner as recited in claim 1.

Third, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches receiving information from the application server (allegedly a hidden web page). In making this rejection, columns 11 and 12 of Gupta are referenced. However, although information may be exchanged between the application server and the client computer in Gupta, the nature of the information exchange is quite different from that of the present

invention. For example, the exchange of information in the present invention is between a client computer and a web page hosted by a web server computer. Gupta shows no appreciation of a web page capable of information exchange, let alone a hidden web page. Again, Gupta teaches a system directed towards a different objective than the present invention.

Fourth, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches writing information to a client storage, with columns 11 and 12 again cited in support of the rejection. However, this reasoning is again flawed, as the limitations of claim 1 include receiving information from the hidden web page and writing the information to a client storage. Stated more simply, an example is receiving information from A and storing the information from A. Gupta, in contrast, teaches receiving information from both an application server and a login server and once authenticated, information from the login server (*i.e.*, a session validation cookie) is stored on the computer. Again simply stated, Gupta thus teaches receiving information from A and then storing information from B. As such, once again, the limitations of receiving information from the hidden web page and writing the information to a client storage are not taught by Gupta as recited in claim 1.

Fifth, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches providing a server with data corresponding to the information received from the application server page (hidden web page) written to the client storage. Again columns 11 and 12 are cited in support of the rejection. As was the case before, the reasoning is flawed in that the Office action equates the server as recited by applicants with the login server of Gupta. However, the claimed server was previously alleged to be equated with

the application server of Gupta. The server in claim 1 cannot be defined so fluidly. Gupta specifically teaches two servers, for reasons applicable to the system in Gupta. The present invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to a different purpose and does not recite such distinct servers.

Further, the limitations of claim 1 also recite that the data indicates to the server that the browser is being hosted by the client application. The teachings of Gupta provide no such teaching. At best, the cookie that is sent to the application server in the system of Gupta is able to indicate that an active session still exists between the client machine and the application server, but the active session is simply arbitrary based upon providing login information. The data sent (the cookie) is not capable of identifying that the browser accessing the server is being hosted by a particular application program. That is, Gupta teaches providing data that identifies the user of a program, whereas this aspect of the present invention is directed toward providing data that identifies the program itself.

Finally, the Office action contends that Gupta teaches the limitations of claim 1 that recites receiving state information directed to the client application from the server based on the data having been provided to the server. Columns 11-13 are referenced in support of this rejection, however it is clear that Gupta's teachings have been misinterpreted, including the contention that cookie or identity information taught by Gupta is state information (as used in the present invention). Again, this reasoning is flawed in that the Office action misinterprets a single term or concept in Gupta, and then surprisingly applies the misconstrued term or concept to several terms or concepts in the present invention. The cookie in

Gupta, which was previously contended to be both information from the hidden web page and the information written to a client storage, is now also seemingly being equated with state information. Such a shifting definition based on a misinterpretation cannot be reasonably used to support a rejection of claim 1. The exchange of a single piece of information (a cookie) between three computing platforms in Gupta does not teach or even suggest the exchange of three distinct kinds of information between two computing platforms as recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least these reasons.

With regard to claims 2-15, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Applicants submit that claims 2-15 are also allowable for the additional patentable elements included in these claims.

Turning to the next independent claim, claim 16 recites a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising, providing a hidden web page, the network location of the hidden web page known to instances of a corresponding client application program that hosts a client browser, receiving a request from the client browser to access the hidden web page, communicating information from the hidden web page to the client browser, the information indicating that the hidden web page was accessed, redirecting the client browser to another web page, at a server corresponding to the other web page, detecting the information indicating that the hidden web page was accessed, and communicating data from the server to the client application program.

The Office action rejected claim 16 as anticipated by Gupta and contends that claim 16 does not recite any new limitation over claims 1-6 and 8-15, and were therefore rejected on similar grounds as claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As was shown above, Gupta teaches two distinct servers, a login server and an application server. Further, Gupta does not teach a hidden web page. Additional patentable reasons also exist as to why claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

In the first limitation of claim 16, it recites providing a hidden web page, the network location of the hidden web page known to instances of a corresponding client application program that hosts a client browser. As was shown above, Gupta does not teach or even suggest a hidden web page. Even if the Office action's contention that the login server is analogous to a hidden web page (applicants specifically deny that the login server is analogous to a hidden web page and merely present the scenario for argumentative purposes) is accepted, the location of the login server is not known to the application program in Gupta. Rather, the application program is unaware that the initial login data being sent is directed to a different location. To the application, the login server is invisible. Thus, from the perspective of the application program, an invisible login server cannot be construed to be a web page with a known location.

For at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

With regard to claims 17-24, 28, and 29, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16. Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable for the additional patentable elements included in these claims.

Turning to the last independent claim, claim 25 recites a system for enhanced communication between a server and a client, comprising, a client including an application program and a browser hosted by the application program, a server connected to the client via a transmission medium, a hidden web page accessed by the browser for the client application, the hidden web page providing awareness data for writing to a storage of the client, a server web page, the browser redirected thereto and providing the server with the awareness data provided by the hidden web page, and the server detecting the data to recognize that the browser is being hosted by the application program and providing enhanced functionality to the application program based on the receipt of the awareness data.

The Office action rejected claim 25 as anticipated Gupta and, again, contends that claim 25 does not recite any new limitation over claims 1-6 and 8-15, and were therefore rejected on similar grounds as claim 1. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As was shown above, Gupta teaches two distinct servers in a login server and an application server. Further, Gupta does not teach a hidden web page. Additional patentable reasons also exist as to why claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record.

For example, claim 25 recites the browser redirected thereto and providing the server with the awareness data provided by the hidden web page, and the server detecting the data to recognize that the browser is being hosted by the application program and providing enhanced functionality to the application program based on the receipt of the awareness data. This is clearly different language and recites at least one other limitation than those set forth in claims 1-6 and 8-15. Applicants submit that Gupta does not disclose or suggest such a concept, and thus claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record for at least this additional reason.

With regard to claims 25-27, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 25. Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable for the additional patentable elements included in these claims.

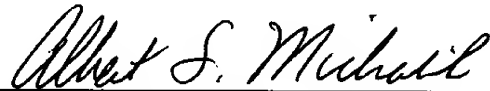
For at least these additional reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office Action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 and 20-29 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



Albert S. Michalik, Reg. No. 37,395
Attorney for Applicants
Law Offices of Albert S. Michalik, PLLC
704 - 228th Avenue NE, Suite 193
Sammamish, WA 98074
(425) 836-3030
(425) 836-8957 (facsimile)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Petition for Extension of Time, along with Transmittal and Change of Correspondence Address are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA. 22313.

Date: March 3, 2004



Albert S. Michalik

1880 Amendment